

REMARKS

By the present amendment, claim 1 has been amended and claims 6-7 have been cancelled. Claims 1-5 and 8-19 are currently pending in the application.

Claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over the combination of U.S. Patent No. 5,998,126 to Toya et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,332,889 to Siga et al., and U.S. Patent No. 5,958,668 to Matsumoto et al. It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-10, as amended, overcome this rejection.

None of the cited references teaches or suggested the use of a silver iodide-based photothermographic material (40-100 mol % silver iodide) in connection with the use of at least two reducing agents have the formulas specified in claim 1. By using the specific reducing agents R-1 and R-3 together or R-1 and R-2 together, a photothermographic material is produced exhibiting high sensitivity and a pure black tone image. The effect of this combination is shown in Table 1. In Table 1, Experiment Nos. 5 and 6 each use two kinds of reducing agents and exhibit better color tone (pure black tone) image, while maintaining high sensitivity; this is to be compared to Experiment 4, which only uses one type of reducing agent. Further, Experiment Nos. 8 and 9, each of which uses two kinds of reducing agents, exhibit better sensitivity in maintaining pure black tone compared to Experiment No. 7, which uses only one kind of reducing agent. Therefore it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over the combination of U.S. Patent No. 5,998,126 to Toya et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,332,889 to Siga et al., and U.S. Patent No. 5,958,668 to Matsumoto et al. as applied to claims 1-10 and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,656,419 to Toya et al. This rejection is

respectfully traversed. The three primary references fail to teach or suggest the use of two specific reducing agents in combination with one another. The secondary reference to Toya fails to cure the deficiencies of the primary references in that it also fails to teach or suggest the use of the two specific reducing agents simultaneously. Further, there is no motivation to combine the compound of formula H with the materials of the primary references to produce the claimed invention. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 6-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over the combination of U.S. Patent No. 5,998,126 to Toya et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,332,889 to Siga et al., and U.S. Patent No. 5,958,668 to Matsumoto et al. as applied to claims 1-10 and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,211,839 to Suzuki et al. and EP 1096310. This rejection is respectfully traversed. The limitations of claims 6 and 7 have been added to independent claim 1; as discussed above, the three primary references fail to teach or suggest the use of two specific reducing agents in combination. The two secondary references, Suzuki and EP '310 also fail to teach or suggest the use of two specific combined reducing agents as set forth in amended claim 1. Therefore it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 11-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. over the combination of U.S. Patent No. 5,998,126 to Toya et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,332,889 to Siga et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,958,668 to Matsumoto et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,656,419 to Toya et al., and U.S. Patent No. 4,211,839 to Suzuki et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner has used impermissible hindsight to "pick and choose" individual components from a wide variety of references in order to

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"recreate" the claimed invention. There is no teaching or suggestion to combine a high silver iodide based photothermographic material with the specific reducing agent of formula R-5 and the antifoggant of formula H in the claimed ratio. Therefore it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims currently pending in the application are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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